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HUSSEIN VISITS SYRIA



MELVIN LAIRD

AMMAN (Reuters). — King Hussein of Jordan returned to Amman last night from a brief surprise visit to Syria during which he conferred with President Hafez al-Assad, probably on the Syrian decision to boycott the Geneva peace conference.

During his official six-hour visit, he had talks with President Assad and Syrian officials for three hours. An official statement in Damascus merely said the meeting was attended by Prime Minister Mahmoud al-Ayoubi and several other Syrian ministers. King Hussein was accompanied by members of his delegation. The statement did not disclose the subjects discussed.

Egyptians out to show 'good intentions'

By ANAN SAFADI

GENEVA. — The Egyptians yesterday carried out a large-scale information campaign in Geneva, stressing that Cairo's participation in the peace talks is "well-intentioned."

Murder charge in Geneva Israel: Real reason for Syrian boycott

GENEVA (UPI). — Israel charged Syria yesterday with murdering 42 Israeli prisoners of war and said the mistreatment of other captives was one of the reasons Syria pulled out of the Geneva conference.

"We know that 42, at least, of our soldiers were massacred by the Syrians, cold-bloodedly massacred, with their hands tied and feet bound and blindfolded," Israeli spokesman Avi Primor told a news conference, the first formal one held by any delegation here.



Israeli TV viewers last night saw this captured Israeli pilot, identified as Gaby Gerson, interviewed by a French camera team in a Syrian hospital.

Speaking in Hebrew, the pilot said he was treated well, stressing — "in hospital." Asked who started the war, he replied, "I know the Arabs did," but he refused to answer questions of a more political nature.

Israel group leaving today

Jerusalem Post Diplomatic Correspondent

Israel yesterday received an official invitation from the U.N. Secretary-General to attend the Geneva peace conference, and its delegation will travel to Geneva today.

The invitation was handed to Israel's Ambassador to the U.N., Yosef Tekoah, and he called it to Jerusalem, where it arrived before dawn.

Dr. Waldheim wrote briefly to Mr. Tekoah that he was enclosing the letter which he had received from the U.S. and the Soviet Union and which needed no elaboration.

Observers here believe that "the first stage" referred to in this paragraph means not to the ceremonial opening this weekend but rather the first substantive stage in January, when the disengagement of forces is also to be discussed.

In the talks with Secretary of State Kissinger in Jerusalem this week, it was agreed that the U.S. would back Israel's position that the Palestinians ought not to be admitted to the conference.

The Israel delegation to Geneva held final consultations in Jerusalem last night, before leaving for the conference today. The delegation comprises: Foreign Minister Abba Eban, Foreign Ministry deputy director-general Ephraim Kidron, Ambassador to Rome Moshe Sasson, political advisers Mordechai Kidron, Shmuel Divon and Eytan Benzur, and legal adviser Meir Rosen.

Mr. Eban's speech tomorrow is expected to stress the need to define the nature of peace and Israel's insistence that it will not withdraw to the 1967 borders. This will be linked however with an attitude of flexibility regarding the overall territorial question.

CAIRO'S F.M. IN GENEVA Egypt at talks to secure Israel pull-out

GENEVA. — Egyptian Foreign Minister Ismail Fahmy said here yesterday that he is attending the Arab-Israeli conference here in order to secure "a total Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and the restoration of the national rights of the Palestinian people."

The Egyptian Minister, who arrived here in the afternoon, was the first to reach Geneva, where the peace conference is due to open tomorrow morning at 10.30 o'clock. Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko arrived shortly afterwards.

Fahmy said the Middle East situation "is still highly explosive" and the cease-fire "fragile." He said his delegation would seek to have the conference implement the U.N. resolution dealing with the Middle East and said that they would expect "tangible results."

Fahmy said he hoped the conference would be marked by "diligence, speed and good faith." He added, "I have come here with the firm intention to work for a just and durable peace."

Vladimir Vinogradov, Soviet Ambassador to Cairo and the man who will take over in Geneva as chief Russian negotiator after the opening ceremonial phase, arrived with Fahmy.

Gromyko, who arrived from Moscow with a large party of officials, said that the Soviet Union "will firmly support the just struggle of the Arab people" and will seek a settlement of the Middle East problem on the basis of the implementation of "the relevant United Nations decision."

He said that the Soviet delegation to the conference will "do everything possible to facilitate the successful work of the peace conference" and appealed to all participants "to show good will and a sense of realism."

Fahmy and Gromyko met at dinner last night to plan a joint strategy for the conference. Both are due to meet tonight with U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, who is expected in Geneva today.

Neither Fahmy nor Gromyko mentioned the Syrian boycott of the parley. But an Egyptian official spokesman said last night Syria was expected to attend the talks here at a later stage if the conference by then produced tangible results.

(INA, Reuters, UPI)

Waldheim due today

By ARI RATH and ANAN SAFADI

GENEVA. — Early this morning the "convenor" of the conference, U.N. Secretary-General Kurt Waldheim, is to arrive here.

Despite the last minute uncertainty over Jordan's participation, Arab diplomatic sources here told The Post that a Jordanian delegation was on its way and would probably stop over in Paris to await last moment instructions from Amman.

The Jordanian delegation will be headed by King Hussein's personal representative and Ambassador to Cairo, Abdul-Monem Rifai, and will include some prominent Palestinians, including Walid Salah, a former Nabulus lawyer, who at one time served as Jordan's Foreign Minister.

The 40-men strong Egyptian delegation included a large number of newsmen. First to step off the special plane was Cairo's "Newsweek" correspondent and close associate of President Sadat, Arnaud de Borchgrave.

The official Egyptian delegation includes Hussein Khalaf and Mohammed Riad of the Foreign Ministry, two ranking military officers, ambassador-designate to Geneva Abdullah Arian and two Egyptian delegates to the U.N.

The official spokesman of the Egyptian delegation, Tahsin Bashir, told a press briefing last night that Egypt has come to the peace talks "in the name of all Arabs." This was seen as an obvious attempt to patch over Syria's boycott of the conference.

Bashir expressed his confidence that Syria would join the Geneva talks should a breakthrough take place. He thought that the Palestinians would also come at a later stage, "providing they are invited."

One of the causes for the sudden split between Egypt and Syria appears to be over strategy at the Geneva conference. Cairo apparently sought to first tackle the question of military disengagement, while Syria wanted to immediately take up the problem of setting a timetable for Israel's withdrawal to the 1967 borders.

Among the Israeli arrivals yesterday were Uri Avnery and Abraham Aronson, the former head of the Tel Aviv Government Information Centre, whose activities were cause for a minor political sensation last year. Although known for his close association with Yigal Alon, he claimed that he was representing only himself here.

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Association of Engineers and Architects in Israel (AEAI) TODAY AT THE CONGRESS of the Association of Engineers and Architects in Israel THURSDAY, DEC. 20, 1973 09.00-10.30 a.m. PLenary SESSION (Hall A) Chairman: Mr. Zeev Shari Minister of Housing, Israel KEY LECTURES: 1. DECISION PROCESSES IN DEVELOPMENT Professor Chester Rappin, Princeton University, U.S.A. 2. HUMAN WELFARE AND PRODUCTIVITY Professor Albert E. Cherns, University of Loughborough, England 3. HOUSING Professor Leo Grebler, University of California, Los Angeles, U.S.A. 4. NATURAL RESOURCES AND THE PROCESS OF DEVELOPMENT Dr. Jack E. Goldmann, Senior Vice President, Xerox Corporation, U.S.A. 5. WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT Professor J. C. Van Dam, Delft University, Holland 10.30-11.00 a.m. Coffee Break 11.00 a.m.-1 p.m. PANEL SESSIONS 3.00-7.00 p.m. PANEL SESSIONS 1. DECISION PROCESSES IN DEVELOPMENT (Hall C) Chairman: Professor Janet Scheff, University of Puerto Rico, Puerto Rico Co-Chairman: Dr. Bar-Adi Arad, Director, Entam Ltd., Israel 2. HUMAN WELFARE AND PRODUCTIVITY (Hall B) Chairman: Prof. Vernon Z. Newcombe University of Wales, England Co-Chairman: Dr. Daniel Brachet, Director, Department of Public Health, Ministry of Health, Israel 3. HOUSING Chairman: Mr. Joseph Sharon, Director General, Ministry of Housing, Israel Co-Chairman: Professor Samuel Aron, University of California, Los Angeles, U.S.A. 4. NATURAL RESOURCES AND THE PROCESS OF DEVELOPMENT (Hall B) Chairman: Professor Yankov Gross, Chief Scientist, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Israel Co-Chairman: Professor Michael Even-Ari, Hebrew University, Jerusalem 5. WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT (Hall D) Chairman: Professor M. E. Fiering, Harvard University, U.S.A. Co-Chairman: Professor Nathan Burns, Technion, Israel Institute of Technology 8.30 p.m. SYMPOSIUM ON FUTURE TRAINING OF ARCHITECTS (Hall A) Sponsored by: The International Union of Architects (U.I.A.), The Association of Engineers and Architects in Israel (A.E.A.I.) and The Technion, Israel Institute of Technology.

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Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, during meeting with General Franco in Madrid on Tuesday. (AP radiophoto)

BITTER DISPUTE OVER FUND Latent Mart tensions burst into open

BRUSSELS (Reuter). — The latent tensions inside the Common Market have burst into the open in a bitter dispute over the creation of a regional fund to help "the poorer parts" of the nine-nation community.

For the split over the fund is not only a rift between those countries who would pay into it and those who stand to benefit from its operations. It is also the manifestation of the different approaches among the nine to the whole question of European integration. The present crisis has shattered the credibility of the statement issued after the weekend summit meeting of Community leaders in Copenhagen.

Although they reconciled differences on how the nine should tackle the oil crisis and instructed the ministers to reach an agreement on the regional fund, these bland words have remained a dead letter.

Because of the lack of progress on the fund, Britain is blocking the first steps towards preparing for a community programme for dealing with the energy crisis. The British Government has set considerable

store on the creation of a substantial fund in order to show national public opinion that it can obtain a major benefit from EEC membership.

The British view is backed by Italy and Ireland, who also stand to receive considerable assistance from the fund, due to come into force on January 1.

But against them stands an intransigent West Germany. The basic German argument on backing a modest fund at present (one fifth of the size sought by the other three) is that the Community as it now is does not merit a bigger one.

Arguments put forward over the past 48 hours here by State Secretary Hans Apel show clearly that West Germany is fed up with being the "paymaster" of the community without receiving a political commitment to EEC integration in return.

If the Common Market was already a federal organization then West Germany, as the richest part, would pay for poorer areas. But the community lags far behind this goal at present, Mr. Apel said.

Kissinger ends visit to Spain

MADRID (AP). — U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger said yesterday the U.S. and Spain have found "a substantial identity of views" on a wide range of subjects, including American bases in Spain.

Kissinger, ending a 24-hour visit to Spain, said his talks with Spanish Foreign Minister Laureano Lopez Roda were "very extensive and very friendly." He also conferred with Premier Luis Carrero Blanco and called on the Chief of State, General Franco, and Spain's King-designate, Prince Juan Carlos of Bourbon.

The tone of the Secretary's statement contrasted with those he made in Lisbon Tuesday indicating the U.S. and Portugal had reached less than full accord on renewing the Azores bases agreement.

Kissinger flew to Paris for talks with North Vietnamese President Thieu about the Indochinese situation before going to Geneva for the Middle East peace conference.

Freighter with 40 sinks

VICTORIA, British Columbia (Reuter). — A Liberian registered freighter with a crew of 40 sank in icy seas in the Gulf of Alaska early yesterday as a Canadian Argus rescue aircraft circled overhead.

The 10,051-ton Oriental Monarch vanished below 30-foot waves some 550 miles north-west of Victoria. Rescue officials said flares from a lifeboat raised hopes there would be some survivors.

The ship was en route to Japan from Portland, Oregon, with a cargo of grain. Her Portland agent said most of the officers were from Taiwan and that the crew was mainly Filipino.

Two on trial for Auschwitz deaths

FRANKFURT (Reuter). — Two alleged former S.S. men went on trial here on Tuesday accused of complicity in the murder of Gypsies and Jews at Auschwitz during World War II. The accused, Alois Frey, a 62-year-old electrician, and Willy Sawitzki, a 54-year-old draughtsman, pleaded not guilty during preliminary investigations.

The indictment alleged that Sawitzki, a non-commissioned officer in the S.S., was present when 400 Jewish children at Auschwitz were put on to lorries and then thrown into an open incineration pit and burned alive. It quoted witnesses of the atrocity as saying that some children managed to reach the edge of the pit as "living fireballs" but were pushed back by S.S. guards. Sawitzki was also accused of having helped supervise the transportation of 3,000 gypsies to the gas chambers from their special camp at Auschwitz-Birkenau.

The trial is expected to last several months.

Israeli's plea over detention in Germany

PARIS (UPI). — A complaint by an Israeli citizen, Yosef Levy, 36, over his three-year detention in Germany pending trial on a charge of murdering a night-club hostess has been declared admissible by the European Commission of Human Rights, a commission statement said yesterday.

Levy, a night-club manager, was arrested in Frankfurt in December 1970 on suspicion of killing Betty Gruber. Ball was refused and in August 1971 he was charged with murder. On December 11 this year, he was convicted of homicide and sentenced to 15 years' imprisonment.

Levy complained to the commission that the length of his pre-trial detention breached Article 5 of the European Convention of Human Rights, which rules that anyone detained on remand is entitled to trial within a reasonable time or to release pending trial.

SOME COULD GO TO HOLLAND Iraq oil output rises; doubts about cutbacks

Iraq has stepped up its oil production by an average of 2.1 million barrels daily, or about 105 million tons this year, an increase of 45 per cent over last year. This was stated by Iraqi Oil Minister Sadeem Hamadi in an interview published yesterday.

The Iraqi Government, which is not joining the Arab production cutbacks, plans to increase its output to more than 3.5 million barrels a day or 175 million tons a year by 1975, he added.

Hamadi indicated to the newspaper "Le Monde" that although Iraq had imposed an embargo on government oil to Holland, British Petroleum and the French oil company, Compagnie Francaise des Petroles, were free to ship their share of Iraqi oil to countries hit by the oil crisis.

In Beirut, the Lebanese newspaper "Al-Anwar" quoted Hamadi as saying that Iraq was opposed to the principle of reducing production adopted by the other Arab states as a means of pressure against Israel, because such cutbacks might harm both hostile and friendly states.

Continued raising of oil prices could threaten Arab markets because the highly industrialised countries which imported Arab oil had other sources of energy that had not been economic in the past but might be used following an unlimited rise in oil prices.

Other developments yesterday in connection with the oil crisis were: In Tripoli, informed sources said that the Libyan Government would sell oil to buyers who linked their bids with development projects.

The government has about 900,000 barrels of oil a day at its disposal, just over half current production, and has called for tenders, it was stated.

The sources predicted offers of \$30 a barrel in the tenders — a sharp increase on the present maximum of \$13.

In Washington, President Nixon won specific authority to introduce petrol rationing if he wished, but other fuel conservation plans would be subject to veto by either House of Congress.

The President can put the energy conservation plans into effect at once and either the House or the Senate can veto any of these plans by majority vote within 15 days after the start of the next session of Congress on January 21.

This follows a decision of a House-Senate committee.

A senior U.S. budget official has predicted that the energy crisis will increase government spending in the financial year beginning next July by less than one per cent, or \$2,000m. The deputy director of President Nixon's management and budget office, Mr. Frederick Malek, said that the Administration believed the energy crisis was "totally manageable."

In Brussels, the big oil companies which traditionally spend fortunes in advertising to boost sales, yesterday launched a \$350,000 campaign to inform consumers on how they could make do with less petrol.

Full-page advertisements in newspapers urged the public to use less petrol and home-heating fuels. (Reuter)

U.N. OFFICIALS WILL FLY SECOND CLASS

By GENE KRAMER
UNITED NATIONS (AP). — The last major debate of the U.N. General Assembly's 28th session before it went into recess on Tuesday night concerned neither war nor peace.

It was about airplane tickets. In an unusual alliance, the U.S. joined Cuba and the Soviet Union in an attempt to force 100 U.N. bureaucrats from first class into economy class seats when they fly on U.N. affairs.

The U.S.-Soviet side won a partial victory in six roll calls and nearly an hour of argument. The Assembly also agreed to defer debate on the Middle East question in its agenda on the understanding that the issue may be raised at a resumed session arranged after consultations among the membership. As a result, the 135-nation body was not declared closed, although this was to have been the official adjournment date.

As a result of the decision on air tickets, 80 directors in the U.N. Secretariat will have to fly economy but 20 assistant secretaries-general remained the right to fly first class.

Secretary-General Kurt Waldheim recommended first class for all of the directors and assistant secretaries-general as well as for himself and 15 undersecretaries-general, whose status remains unchanged.

Saudi Arabian Ambassador Jamil Baroudy said he could not understand how such "wealthy superpowers" as the U.S. and Russia could be so "paranoid" at the wrong time and compromise "the dignity and worth" of U.N. office holders.

The difference in fare was negligible, Baroudy said, and U.N. officials should be filling often empty first class seats instead of denying cheaper seats to tourists on tight budgets.

"Don't you own stock in Pan American. Don't you want to help fill their planes?" Baroudy asked, turning to the U.S. delegation.

The U.S. argument was presented at an earlier finance committee debate. "First class passage is simply not justified," considering the important programmes the U.N. is carrying on with very limited funds, U.S. delegate David Stottlemeyer said.

Conditions for easing embargo

LONDON (UPI). — Arab spokesmen said here yesterday that the oil embargo would be lifted if a firm time-table for Israeli withdrawal of "all occupied lands" was fixed and guaranteed by the U.S. After that oil production would be increased as the withdrawal was implemented, but curbs on future production would be maintained. These policy outlines were given

at a news conference by Sudanese Foreign Minister Mansur Khalid and the Minister of State from the Union of Arab Emirates, Aiman al-Fachachi, who are here for talks with British leaders.

They hinted guardedly that "some review" of oil curbs to friendly countries, notably Britain, might be possible at an early date to ease their shortage.

'Nixon should have paid some expenses himself'

WASHINGTON (AP). — President Nixon should have paid personally for some of the \$1.4m. in work done at federal expense at his home, government auditors have concluded.

In a 99-page report to Congress, the General Accounting Office stopped short of recommending that Nixon repay federal funds spent on the projects it cited.

But the watchdog agency said Congress should tighten controls over such federal spending and consider limiting the number of private residences at which Presidents can receive permanent security facilities.

The report was sharply critical of the "casual attitude" it said was displayed by federal officials and agencies in authorizing work at Nixon's homes in San Clemente, California, and Biscayne, Florida.

According to the auditors, Nixon himself was at times personally involved in approving some of the projects. They said others were ordered or approved by White House aides, his personal lawyer or architect, or his close friend, C. G. "Bebe" Rebozo.

The White House did not make an immediate, detailed response to the report, referring instead to previous assertions that the work on Nixon's property was required for security or administrative reasons.

Nixon himself referred on December 8 to the federal spending in an extensive report on his personal finances. He described as "grossly inaccurate" what he termed the widespread belief "that the government improvements (at the homes) have vastly enriched me personally." (Nixon lesson, page 9)



Cosmonauts Peter Klimuk, commander of Soyuz-13, right, and Vladimir Lebedev, during training at Soviet space centre. (AP radiophoto)

Cosmonauts 'feel fine'

MOSCOW (AP). — The Soviet Union broke a 24-hour silence on the progress of the Soyuz-13 manned spaceship yesterday evening to report that the craft had completed 18 orbits of the earth and the cosmonauts "feel fine."

There was no explanation for the day-long silence about the Soyuz-13, which was launched on Tuesday afternoon.

U.S. Space Centre sources in Houston said a Salyut space station was launched secretly by the Soviets

on November 30 under the cover of the Cosmos Programme and speculated that Soyuz-13 might try a link-up.

The official Soviet progress report gave no hint of this, but it was noted that on the fifth orbit Soyuz-13 changed its flight path to put it in an almost circular orbit. Such an orbit has always been used for Soviet link-up and the new parameters were very close to that of Soyuz-11, which docked with a Salyut Spacecraft in 1971.

In Newport, Rhode Island, a small liberal arts college is \$376,500 richer following the auction of two Italian renaissance masterpieces which had been collecting dust unrecognized. The Salve Regina college acquired the two paintings by Paolo Veronese in 1947, when New

York millionaire Robert Goulet donated to the Roman Catholic Church his 50-room Newport summer mansion, which houses the school.

"It seems obvious he didn't know what they were," said C. Hugh Hildersley, head appraiser and vice-president of auctioneers Parke Bernet. "They've never been catalogued and never been mentioned for centuries."

Hildersley said the paintings — "The Patriarch" and "The Astrologer" — dated from Veronese's Venetian period. They were found in "incredible, supercondition," he said.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation entered the case late Tuesday. A description of the paintings was relayed to the computerized National Crime Information Centre and passed on to Interpol.

Officials were puzzled that the robbers took only two paintings and left two more valuable Rembrandts in a nearby section of the museum.

In Newport, Rhode Island, a small liberal arts college is \$376,500 richer following the auction of two Italian renaissance masterpieces which had been collecting dust unrecognized. The Salve Regina college acquired the two paintings by Paolo Veronese in 1947, when New

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PLO MAY ASK FOR THE TERRORISTS

Kuwait has 'no plans yet' to try five hijack killers

(Reuters). — Kuwait has at the moment no intention of trying five Arab hijackers who were involved in the hijacking of the Lufthansa plane which was shot down in the Persian Gulf last night. The Kuwaiti government has not yet decided whether to try the hijackers, who were captured in the Gulf last night. The hijackers, who were captured in the Gulf last night, are being held in Kuwait. The Kuwaiti government has not yet decided whether to try the hijackers, who were captured in the Gulf last night. The hijackers, who were captured in the Gulf last night, are being held in Kuwait. The Kuwaiti government has not yet decided whether to try the hijackers, who were captured in the Gulf last night.

aircraft's microphone by the terrorists and implored the control tower. The leader of the terrorist hijackers told Kuwaiti leaders that he was "fighting for the whole world that America and Israel have sentenced to death." The "boss" of the gang harangued Kuwait ministers and officials for more than two hours on Tuesday night, after the hijacked Boeing 747 landed here. West German Embassy sources said they understood the gunman received some form of safe conduct in radioed negotiations with the airport control tower before they surrendered. With West Germany's Ambassador Hans-Friedrich, listening in to the exchanges between the "boss" — as his fellow hijackers referred to him — and the airport control tower, the terrorist leader charged that the U.S. "taught me criminality." At one point during the radio exchanges, one of the two Lufthansa stewardesses was given the



One of the hijackers of the Lufthansa airliner raises his arms as another walks beside him after being taken into custody at Kuwait airport on Wednesday. (AP radiophoto)

Pilots — execute them on the spot RABAT: 'NO MERCY' FOR HIJACKERS'

Morocco called on Kuwait yesterday to treat the Lufthansa hijackers with "neither pity nor mercy." In London, a British airline pilots spokesman said there was a growing feeling among airmen that the hijackers should be executed on the spot. A message from Moroccan Foreign Minister Ahmed Tahbi Benhima to his Kuwaiti counterpart said the hijackers were "mere criminals or even nefarious enemies of the Palestinian people and the Arab cause." Two Moroccan Cabinet Ministers and two high government officials were killed when the hijackers blew up a Pan American airliner in Rome on Monday. Mr. Benhima said Morocco was certain Kuwait would try the hijackers or else hand them over to the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), "in whose name they perpetrated their crime, while this organization disapproves and stigmatizes their acts."

care not to link the hijackers with the Palestine terrorist movement, nor did it name Israel. It quoted the French Communist Party organ "L'Humanité" as pointing to the strange coincidence between hijacking and Arab summits in the past and added: "Any attempts to set public opinion against the legitimate demands of the Palestinian patriots can only be considered provocations." The French Government yesterday deplored the violence at the Rome airport and the hijacking. A statement read to newsmen by Information Minister Jean-Philippe Lecat after the weekly French Cabinet meeting said: "The tragic events of Monday and Tuesday show how difficult it is to get out of the internal cycle of violence and how inhuman become those who give in to it. The French Government deplors the death of so many innocent victims and reaffirms with force its absolute condemnation of taking hostages for any motive."

BLAST INJURES POSTAL WORKER

Police hunt IRA men in U.K. bomb campaign

LONDON. — A letter bomb exploded in a London mail sorting office yesterday in the latest attack believed to have been launched by the Irish Republican Army in Britain. The explosion, in the New Oxford Street post office building, wounded a mail sorter, bringing the number injured since the campaign began on Monday to 66, a Scotland Yard spokesman said. The blast came as police launched a nation-wide manhunt for two IRA suspects. A member of parliament received a bomb in the mail yesterday, but police said the incident might not be connected with the IRA. A police spokesman said the explosives arrived in the morning post at the home of Conservative Party member George Drayson, but failed to explode because of a faulty fuse. He said Drayson was involved in a dispute with squatters who had occupied a house in North London and the bomb may have come from this source rather than the IRA. Scotland Yard yesterday issued facsimile pictures of two men believed to have been involved in four bomb blasts. In one of these a car

Irish can now import contraceptives

DUBLIN (AP). — A 28-year-old Dublin housewife has won a legal battle to overturn the Irish Republic's law banning the import of contraceptives. The Supreme Court in Dublin yesterday upheld an appeal by Mrs. Mary McGee who claimed that the Irish customs authorities acted unconstitutionally in confiscating contraceptives she tried to bring into the country. The decision in this test case means that citizens of the Republic will now be able to buy contraceptives in Britain or in the British province of Northern Ireland and bring them home legally. The sale of contraceptives in the Republic, however, will still be banned. The case began in June 1972 when Mrs. McGee, wife of a fisherman and mother of four children, went to the High Court in Dublin and claimed that her life would be endangered if she had more children. The High Court dismissed her case. Mrs. McGee appealed to the Supreme Court. The ban on the sale and import of contraceptives was one of the reasons cited by Protestants in Northern Ireland for opposing union with the predominantly Roman Catholic Republic.

The oil shortage may not be so bad really

PARIS (Reuters). — Leading Western industrial countries and Japan yesterday considered long-term plans to meet the energy crisis amid signs that immediate oil shortages may not be as acute as they originally feared. Some delegates on the oil committee of the 24-nation Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) said the Arab oil front was less solid than it originally appeared. "We would not go as far as saying there are any cracks in this front," one delegate commented, "but it is obvious that oil will not be that scarce in the coming weeks and months although we will have to pay very dearly for it." Delegates said Iran and Iraq were now increasing their oil production and trying to sell it wherever possible, including to countries subject to the oil embargo. They said the oil committee now possessed fuller facts and figures on supplies for the next six months and the situation today looked less gloomy than when Arab production cutbacks began.

BRITISH PLANE 'SHOT DOWN' OVER OMAN

ADEN (Reuters). — The Popular Front for the Liberation of Oman (P.F.L.O.) Arab Liberation Army has claimed it shot down a "British military plane" and killed or wounded four soldiers earlier this month. A communiqué issued here yesterday said the plane was shot down in attack by Front forces on December 2 on the Shikrah area in the eastern sector of Dhofar with mortars and machineguns. (In London, a Defence Ministry spokesman said the plane was not shot down earlier this month but was presumably one which had been bought by the Sultan of Oman for his own air force.)

LUFTHANSA HOSTAGES BACK IN ROME

'Bad moments all the time'

The surviving hostages planned to rest one day or two before joining their parents in Austria. She told newsmen about Monday's ordeal. "I never prayed so much in my life," she said. "There were bad moments all the time. We did not know there were terrorists. We heard gunshots and thought they might be thieves or mad people. I went on to the jet with the crew, after a few minutes the Italian jets entered with their hands up. Suddenly there was smoke and noise from the Pan-Am jet. I thought we were going to die. I thought our plane would catch fire also. I didn't understand anything. I was shocked." Miss Hamel said the hijackers brought her up into the cockpit and made her scream while the plane's ramp, with their young policemen stepped much in the same way did when the hijackers an up into the plane at Rome. This time, however, they were very they threw their hands up. "They did not hurt me," she said. "They did not hurt me." Asked why she thought the hijackers chose to execute an Italian

airport worker, Domenico Ippoliti, she said she thought it was because he was sitting by himself whereas the other hostages were all grouped together and handcuffed. "They called the man up from the rear of the plane," she said. "He walked up calmly. Nobody had any idea of what was about to happen. They asked him, even politely, to come to the galley." "He walked into the galley and they closed the curtain. Then we heard two shots and it was finished. They offered us sandwiches — they were very friendly — most of the time — but nobody was very hungry then," she said. She said the hijackers described themselves as Palestinians and said they fire-bombed the Pan-American jet because "the Americans are not our friends."

She said the hijackers told the hostages: "We are your brothers, you are our friends. We won't harm you." "They paid for duty-free cigarettes and gave us water," she said. (AP, Reuters)

Bonn condemns terror in talk with Arabs

By BRIAN ARTHUR Jerusalem Post Correspondent BONN. — The Bonn government used the visit of two Arab foreign ministers here yesterday to condemn the "use of terror for political ends" in the wake of the Rome airport massacre. State Secretary Paul Frank of the West German Foreign Ministry brought up the subject of terrorism in a two-hour talk with his Sudanese counterpart, Mansour Khalid, and Secretary of State of the Gulf Emirates Adnan al Fadhali, who have been touring Europe to put the Arab view on the Middle East crisis.

The Bonn Foreign Office said afterwards that the two Arabs replied that the "Arab governments by no means approve" of terrorist methods. The spokesman said the Arab ministers insisted that a solution to the Palestinian problem and an Israeli withdrawal from the occupied areas was an "absolute precondition for a lasting peace" in the Middle East. The German side stressed that Bonn still stood by the November 9 Common Market resolution which called for an end to the Israeli occupation. It appeared that no breakthrough came in the question of continued oil supplies for West Germany, but Mr. Frank spoke of the "beginning of a dialogue" with the Arab states.

GADDAFI PRAISES SYRIAN STAND

DAMASCUS (Reuters). — Syrian President Hafez al-Assad yesterday received a cable from Libyan leader Colonel Muammar Gaddafi expressing support for Syria's decision to boycott the Geneva peace conference. Colonel Gaddafi said: "...we wish to express to you our great appreciation and satisfaction for this brave stand which reflects the determination of the Arab nation to resist and liberate. We wish to reaffirm to you, your excellency, that we stand by you to the end."

ISRAELI PRAISED

Mr. Hurley added: "It is clear that no normal security measure can prevent these fanatics and it is extremely interesting to note that at Lod airport and on El Al flights there have been fewer incidents than elsewhere. "This, we believe, is directly attributable to the very firm line that Israel takes with these assassins."

In Cairo, President Anwar Sadat said yesterday in a message to King Hassan of Morocco that those who died in the Rome attacks were "innocent victims of a criminal and vicious aggression which contradicts the noble and human principles and values for which the Arab nation is struggling."

Egyptian newspapers suggested that the hijackers might have been "Zionists or their agents." The newspapers said the act in no way served the Palestinian cause and, on the contrary, inflicted harm on it at a time when preparations were under way for the Geneva peace conference. In Damascus, the newspaper "Al-Baath" condemned the attack and described it as a criminal and barbaric action. The newspaper, which speaks for the ruling Baath party, said, "By committing such crimes against innocent people and against humanity, these murderers only help the enemy."

The Soviet Union yesterday for the first time linked the hijacking with "people calling themselves 'Palestinians' and implied that the action served Israeli interests. The Soviet press had so far blamed the bombing and hijacking incidents on "a group of terrorists."

A report in the Communist Party daily "Pravda" today took

Captain raps leaders

(Reuters). — The captain hijacking at Rome's Fiumicino airport Lufthansa plane on Monday, and if he had any concern yesterday at suggestions for improvements or changes. The captain, who was a 37-year-old pilot, was a member of the Middle East under the Palestinian terrorists. He explained that he believed during the operation that several as he breakfasted in his hotel at the end of the terror-filled hours at the Rome airport. "At the beginning, when we were in the plane, we didn't feel that they (the hijackers) had any view of the cabin behind us. When they told us they were going to shoot more people, we actually heard the sounds of shooting behind us, and we thought they were satisfied with the results, and we thought they had killed five or six people."

ing the next few years we foresee

spread development in the metal and electronics branches. metal and electronics professions already hire many additional workers. IN, WOMEN AND YOUTH have not yet chosen themselves a profession are not working — and who are able and willing to work in metal and electronics professions worked or work in other professions and who are willing to change their profession for one in which there is a future: for various reasons left the profession who are willing to return to it metal and electronics professions are waiting for you.

ORK IN THE METAL AND ELECTRONICS

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Iriyat Tel Aviv-Yafo

Advice and Guidance Stations

Tel Aviv-Yafo Municipality, in cooperation with the Citizens' Advisory Service (Sha'al) will open on Sunday, December 23, 1973

3 ADVICE AND GUIDANCE STATIONS

for residents of the city and families of soldiers and wounded at the following Municipal Information Offices:

1. The Information Office at Rehov Frichmann, corner Rehov Ditzengoff, Tel. 223692, 8.00 a.m.-8.00 p.m.
2. The Information Office in Shohamat Hatikva, 75 Derech Hahagana, Tel. 32945, 7.30 a.m.-7.30 p.m.
3. The Information Office in Yafa, 45 Sderot Yerushalayim, 2nd floor, Tel. 37663, 7.30 a.m.-7.30 p.m.

A team of volunteers will provide help, advice and solutions to problems arising from the head of the family being called up.

Yehoshua Rabinowitz
Mayor, Tel Aviv-Yafo

THE LABOUR PARTY ACADEMICIANS' GROUP AND SYMPATHIZERS

CALLS ON ALL ACADEMICIANS to join ranks behind Hama'arach and to form an opposition to the extremist "not one inch" brigade, since this approach is liable to drag the country into further wars and destruction. We believe that, after the elections, the Ma'arach leadership will be able to lead the people to peace, while maintaining a resolute stand against pressures and the erosion of our just security demands, and that it will also be able to preserve human rights and further advance the social achievements of the workers. The Academicians' Group demands and will continue to demand that the new government be made up of the best people available. We welcome the new political awareness among academicians, and call on them to work with us, in order to increase our voice in Hama'arach, to ensure that discussions in the Party's institutions are meaningful, and to bring into the discussion forum a broad range of academic groups, which can contribute advice and support to the Labour leadership. The Academicians' Group warns against the dangers of not voting in the elections. This is liable to produce political instability, the result of which would be the payment of a heavy price to the secondary and small parties.

VOTE FOR HAMA'ARACH TO GIVE PEACE A FAIR CHANCE

EMET Hama'arach/Israel Labour Party-Mapam

LABOUR PARTY ACADEMICIANS' GROUP AND SYMPATHIZERS

National Humanities and Social Sciences Academicians' Group
National Biochemists' and Microbiologists' Group
National Engineers' Group
National Lawyers' and Jurists' Group
National Doctors' Group
National Pharmacists' Group
National Group of Academic Staff at Institutions of Higher Learning



MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT

Driving and Vehicle Services

EXTENSION OF OVERLOADING PERMITS FOR COMMERCIAL VEHICLES

The administration of the Driving and Vehicle Services announces to owners of commercial vehicles that Overloading Permits which are due to expire on December 31, 1973 will be extended to March 31, 1974.

Dov Greenberg
Licensing Services

KISSINGER...AND THE SALAMI POLICY

the Russians' insidious "Salami Policy." Cut away... cut away, little by little, so that the other nation doesn't fully realize how steadily it's losing ground.

Allow the Egyptian Third Army to be resupplied.

Retreat to the Mitla Pass?

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Serving in the Army

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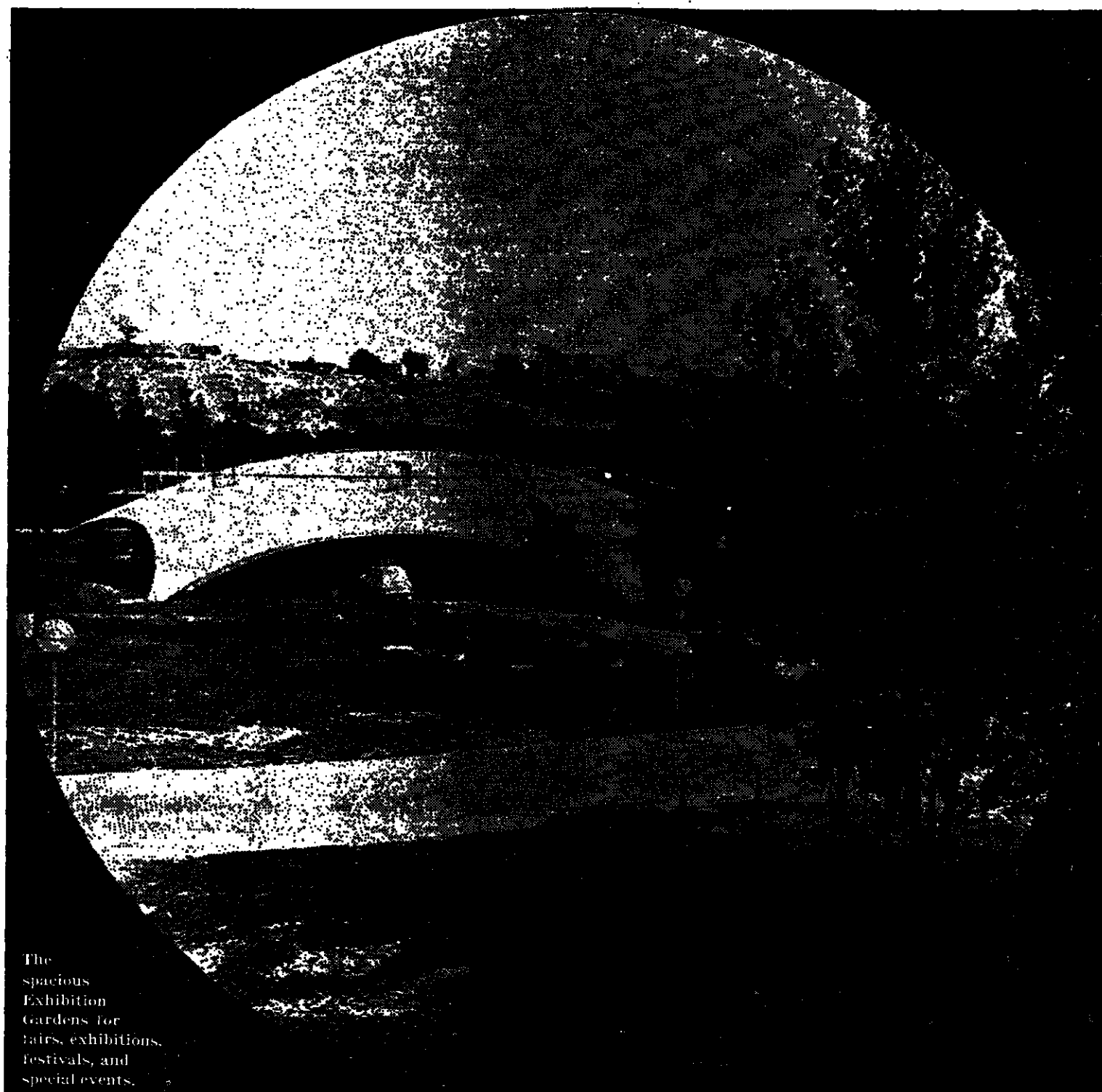
1. Applications may be made to the fund by self-employed persons who have served 50 days in the reserves, and who are still on active service or have been released less than one month.
2. Loans are for amounts up to IL10,000. They are subject to 11% interest, non-linked, for periods up to two years.
3. Applications should be made by the person called up or his wife, and should be presented to the branch of the National Insurance Institute at which the applicant's records are kept. The loan can be made only to the person called up, or to his wife, if she has a power of attorney from him.
4. Applications for loans will be considered by special committees appointed by the Minister of Labour. Representatives of the public and economic interests will be represented on these committees.

The purposes of the loans are, among other things, to allow self-employed farmers and businessmen, whose income prior to being called up was up to IL1800 a month, to receive living expenses in the form of a loan, until they are again in a position to start earning, and also to permit self-employed workshop owners, suppliers of services, and members of the professions to receive, in the form of a loan, partial or complete cover for their day-to-day expenses which continue while they are serving in the army.

● APPLICATION FORMS can be obtained from the following branches of the Institute: Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, Haifa, Beersheba, Hadera, Tiberias, Jaffa, Kfar Saba, Nahariya, Nazareth, Netanya, Afeka, Petah Tikva, Rehovot, Ramle, Ramat Gan.

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המארח

SYRIAN BOYCOTT

SYRIA's decision to boycott the opening of the Geneva conference is in character despite the fact that it was unexpected.

Certainly U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger was not persuaded, at least before his visit to Damascus, that Syria would not attend. And given Egypt's last minute efforts to dissuade the Syrians from such a step, Cairo too was undoubtedly surprised.

Syria has always viewed itself as the spearhead of Arab extremism against Israel, and probably believes attendance at the conference could compromise this role.

However, as was stated both in Washington and in Geneva yesterday, there is also good reason to believe that Syria's reluctance to display itself to international scrutiny at the conference stems in part from mistreatment of the Israeli prisoners it captured in the war. By staying away from the conference opening Syria may delay full exposure of its barbarities, but ultimately the full truth will be made known.

The immediate result of Syria's decision is consternation in Cairo and Amman.

The Egyptians are anxious to have the conference open and then move quickly to the problem of disengagement of forces. But even with the backing gained at the Algeria con-

ference, they cannot be happy at the prospect of attending the conference alone or alone with Jordan.

For they will feel it necessary, perhaps more than originally intended, to represent Arab as distinct from direct Egyptian interests, and this would diminish the prospects of fruitful negotiations.

Syria's move has also perturbed King Hussein sufficiently to send him on a hurried visit to Damascus, and to raise some doubts about Jordan's attendance at the conference.

Dr. Kissinger is apparently inclined to believe that Syria's absence may promote a more moderate atmosphere at the conference's early stages. Since his main aim is to generate some negotiating momentum, especially between Israel and Egypt, he probably welcomes Syria's decision without saying so publicly.

As the opening of the conference will be devoted largely to set speeches, the ultimate significance of Syria's decision will only become known when the time comes for what are supposed to be genuine talks — after the Knesset elections.

Damascus retains the option of joining the conference whenever it considers this convenient. But at this point there is good reason to believe that with Syria and the other Arab countries watching sternly from the sidelines, President Sadat will find his room for manoeuvre more severely limited than he wishes. And Dr. Kissinger may find that the kind of negotiating interaction which he originally envisaged may founder once again on the Arab intransigence which Israel has come to know only too well.

By ANAN SAFADI and ABI RATH
Jerusalem Post Reporters

GENEVA — Syria's decision not to attend the Middle East peace conference struck the Palais des Nations with surprise and cast a shadow over the expected opening of the conference here tomorrow. Despite Cairo's obvious embarrassment in having to come to Geneva without its ally in the October War, it was thought that Egypt would make every effort to get the peace talks under way, because it was already too much committed to the Geneva move.

Observers here were thinking of various possible alternatives that would help Cairo out of the present impasse. An obvious move in that direction would be for the Geneva conference to concentrate without much delay on military disengagement, an issue which does not concern Syria. Another could be that Syria would authorize Mr. Fahmy to speak on its behalf at the opening session.

Meanwhile the Jordanian Mission here tried hard to avoid newsmen's questions how Syria's decision not to come to Geneva might affect Amman's plans.

The announcement of King Hussein's visit to Damascus yesterday came as another surprise.

When phoned for comment on the impact of Syria's decision, the Jordanian Mission claimed twice to be "le faux numero" — the wrong number. A man on the "wrong number" side hung up the second time, almost immediately after realizing that this time he had been approached in Arabic.

The assessment here is that Syria's decision has placed Jordan in a difficult position, although Amman had stated earlier that it would take part in the Geneva conference to gather with Egypt. It is believed that Jordan may be reluctant to attend the forthcoming peace talks without Syria, fearing that Egypt



Tug of war? Syrian President Assad, clasped tightly by Anwar Sadat and Libyan leader Muammer Gaddafi, each of whom want him to go their way. Yesterday, with Assad's decision to boycott the Geneva conference opening, it was Gaddafi's turn to smile.

might then monopolize the talks in its own interests, concentrating on problems concerning the Suez Canal and Sinai and working in its own interests where the West Bank and the Gaza Strip were concerned. Joining Egypt at Geneva would nevertheless help King Hussein come out of his isolation in the Arab world. Two senior Israeli Foreign Ministry officials, Mordechai Kidron and Zeviv Shek, who are to join the official Israeli delegation to the conference, have already arrived in Geneva. In line with "phantom" conference preparations, there is also an unofficial Israeli "professors" delegation, here, which so far includes Shimon Shamir and Shlomo Aronson. After mingling informally with newsmen for the past few days, they came

out into the open on Wednesday, at a public panel on Middle East attitudes and dilemmas on the eve of the Geneva conference. Their activities here are being sponsored by the Centre for Information and Documentation on the Middle East.

A U.N. source said that a secluded villa near Lausanne owned by the U.N. was also being prepared to host the opening session, in case the various security authorities concerned should find that the council chamber at the Palais des Nations was too exposed to possible terrorist intruders.

He thought that the Swiss security authorities were particularly concerned about holding the opening session at the huge Palais des Nations with its dozens of entrances gates and would prefer the secluded villa.

Meanwhile, instructions have been given to the U.N. staff here to remain on duty until Sunday evening, when the conference is expected to open. This means spilling their Christmas wine and cutting it to the bone. U.N. staff members here are not minding their words in expressing their disappointment and anger over this side effect of the Middle East talks. "Neither the Israelis nor the Arabs care much about Christmas," while Kissinger is Jewish and Gromyko is an atheist, they say. "This leaves only Dr. Waldheim as a devout Catholic."

Most journalists here who in the past have covered many international conferences say they have never experienced anything like it. Less than 72 hours before the summit conference opening, there is still official word as to what is going to happen.

SIMONE DE BEAUVOIR

Syria's PoW policy: 'inhuman attitude'

By JACK MAURICE
Jerusalem Post Correspondent

PARIS. — LAST Monday "Le Monde" published an article by Simone de Beauvoir attacking Syria over the prisoners-of-war issue.

The full text of her article (referred to briefly in Tuesday's Jerusalem Post) was as follows: "There is war, then peace, or at least a lull, a truce... the sound of firing dies down, and both sides bury their dead and tend their wounded, the prisoners go home. Over and above these bloody conflicts, the nations re-establish a kind of human order."

"It is this ancient tradition that the Geneva Convention transformed into international law. Israel pledged immediately to conform to it. After some beating about the bush, Egypt consented to an exchange of prisoners. Syria has refused."

"Israel has given the Red Cross a list of its prisoners and has allowed regular Red Cross visits. Syria has given no names of captive Israelis and has not authorized anyone to check on their treatment. 'Why this inhuman attitude? On the Golan Heights, the tortured bodies of Israeli soldiers have been discovered. However dreadful these explosions of hatred may seem, they are imaginable in the height of battle.'"

"But, how can we understand a government that in cold blood inflicts on young and unarmed boys the anguish of an imprisonment whose issue remains shrouded in doubt, a government that condemns hundreds of families to uncertainty and waiting?"

"Syrian soldiers received orders to make the identification of dead Israelis impossible or at least very arduous, the aim being to shake the enemy's morale and thereby diminish his striking power."

"Today the fighting is over, and in Israel the nightmare of the prisoners' families were, too, the face of history would not be changed for all that."

"There is no greater anguish than not knowing whether a loved one is living or dead; Damascus' silence seems all the more cruel as it serves no one."

"Syrian leaders do not sympathize with the tears of Israeli mothers. But do they care about Syrian mothers, over 500 in fact, whose sons they could bring back by just a word?"

"But these mothers do not share the same torments as Israeli mothers because they know their sons are alive and well. It is likely, however, that they miss them just much. Their government prefers to deprive them of the joy of having their sons back rather than for the opportunity to break some Israeli hearts."

"Cannot these Syrian mothers protest against the useless cruelty of this choice and persuade Syrian leaders to change their line of conduct?"

"This is not a political choice. It is not incompatible both to side with Syria against Israel and still insist that it stops violating the Geneva Convention."

"At the start of this latest war the Arabs sought to wipe out as many of their enemies as they could. They replaced it with a better one. The Egyptians in particular went all out to convince the world that they were giving their prisoners the best possible treatment. Syria's stubbornness is in flagrant opposition to this aim."

"If the Syrians remain unmoved by the protests of their enemies then perhaps they would heed the friends if the latter point out that great damage Syria is causing its own cause in international public opinion."

"If Syria goes on transgressing the rules respected by all nations to limit the horrors of war, then their action can be summed up in only one word: barbarism."

Readers' letters

Access denied to foreign press

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post: Sir, — The "personal opinion" column, by Zeev Schul in Tuesday's issue of The Jerusalem Post carried the headline "Foreign Press Favour Unhappy Israeli Newsmen Denied Access to Soldiers."

If I may coin a contradictory phrase this headline is an accurate inaccuracy.

It is accurate that Israeli newsmen are denied access to soldiers. It is not accurate that the foreign press is favoured. Only the visiting luminaries of the journalistic fraternity are given favoured treatment. The resident foreign newsmen who does a day-in, day-out job of covering the Israeli story is hamstrung at every turn.

Nevertheless, Mr. Schul is correct in complaining that Winston Churchill (Jr.), who wrote on the Yom Kippur War in the London "Observer," was given very special treatment by the Israeli military authorities, privileges and access to key people denied to us lesser lights. However — and it is an important "however" — Mr. Schul's complaint does not go to the heart of the problem.

The essence of the problem is that the military authorities, through the Army Spokesman's Office, refuse to understand a simple and basic truth: the best way to present the validity of the Israeli case to the world is to allow a free press to operate freely.

Not only do Israeli newsmen have reason to complain, but the permanent, resident foreign press corps has good reason to feel frustrated. We, too, are denied free access to the fronts and are forbidden to interview soldiers, of any rank.

There is a good-sized press corps in Israel which over the years has demonstrated its commitment to telling the Israeli story truthfully and let the chips fall where they may. These newsmen represent all the major news agencies, newspapers, television and radio networks in the free world. When they speak, hundreds of millions of people listen. Israeli officials and military authorities may speak truthfully, but it is a fact of life that what an official says is often considered to be biased. However, when a free and unrestricted journalist asks questions and reports the truth as he sees it, his report has an impact.

Therefore, if right and truth are on Israel's side, the way to explain this rightly and tell that truth to the world is to let the press cannot do its job if at every turn it is prevented from seeing for itself and talking to people. The Israel Defence Forces, and the Army Spokesman's Office, are concerned about military security. This is natural. However, preventing security breaks is the business of censorship, not of the Army Spokesman's Office. I, personally, and most of my colleagues in the resident foreign press corps, do not want to know Israel's military secrets.

crets. Knowing them would make me nervous and I wouldn't know what to do with them. My colleagues and I only want the opportunity to report what is publishable. In addition, it is a matter of record that the only violations of censorship regulations in recent years have been by visiting foreign newsmen who came in, grabbed a story and published it after leaving Israel. Resident foreign newsmen have not got that possibility.

Therefore, when the Army Spokesman's Office, undoubtedly acting under orders, frustrates the freedom of the press, prevents newsmen from visiting the fronts, issues orders forbidding interviews, and has favourites among the press corps, it is engaging in the worst kind of news management, in what can only be described as self-serving political censorship.

This kind of operation by the Army Spokesman's Office boomeranged during the war. And as a result, for the first time in Israeli history a credibility gap appeared. I am not suggesting that the Army Spokesman's Office lied to the press. I do suggest that the whole truth was often not told, and in some cases the truth was hidden. And newsmen found it difficult to get at the truth or to see for themselves.

The solution to the problem is for the military authorities to accept the basic philosophy that truth is their most potent weapon, and the best way to tell that truth to the Israeli public and the world is to let the free press do its job.

DAN BLOOM
CBS Bureau Chief
Tel Aviv, December 18.

ARABS AND SAMARITANS

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post: Sir, — Reference is made to Sarah Hovav's article about the Samaritans (December 7).

As a Nabulus citizen, I always looked to the Samaritans as brothers and have never regarded them as a foreign element. The relationship between the Arab citizens of Nabulus and the Samaritans was always friendly and never faced difficulties.

The writer of the article depended in her quotations on a Holon Samaritan. If she wanted to be more objective and fair, she should have asked the Samaritans of Nabulus themselves.

The Arab citizens will never forget the stand of the late Elgh Priest of the Samaritans when he told the leaders of the Israeli Army which occupied Nabulus during the June War that the Nabulus citizens had always embraced the Samaritans in the same way a mother embraces her children.

What annoys me in said article is the pessimist view that "if a Palestinian State were established, the remaining Samaritans in Nabulus would be in the same position as Jews were in Nazi Germany." I want to remind the writer that the Arabs have never been persecutors in their history, even to their enemies. If this is their attitude towards enemies, how will it be then towards their Samaritan brothers?

SA'ID M. RANAAN
Nabulus, December 8.

MEMORIAL CHIMES FOR B.G.

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post: Sir, — I thought your readers would be interested to know that according to a report in the Regina "Leader-Post," Requiem Mass for the soul of David Ben-Gurion, founder of Israel, was said at the Roman Catholic Notre Dame College in Wilcox, near Regina, Canada, on Sunday December 2 by Magr. Athol Murray. The carillon of the church, installed only the previous Friday, rang out for the first time with the melody of a Hebrew lament in memory of Ben-Gurion.

A bronze plaque on the College's 80 foot church tower bears the words: "God never died. God is the only eternal in the world." This was a quotation from a letter written to Magr. Murray in 1971 by Israel's first Premier which continued, "Our tiny world may be destroyed. The human race may be wiped out. God is eternal."

The Hebrew dirges will soon be replaced with other music from the Jewish, Moslem and Christian religions, reflecting 82-year-old Magr. Murray's long-time interest in world religions.

MRS. MORRIS MALT
Regina, Canada, December 4.

TIME

- December 24, 1973
- * KISSINGER: — THE SUPERSTAR ON HIS OWN
- * LESS FUN BUT MORE AWE
- * MIDDLE EAST: TOWARD A POLITICAL CROSSING
- * OIL SUMMIT: THE NINE BECOME 13
- * BRITAIN: A GRAY CHRISTMAS AND A 5-DAY WEEK
- * JAPAN: THE RETREAT BEGINS

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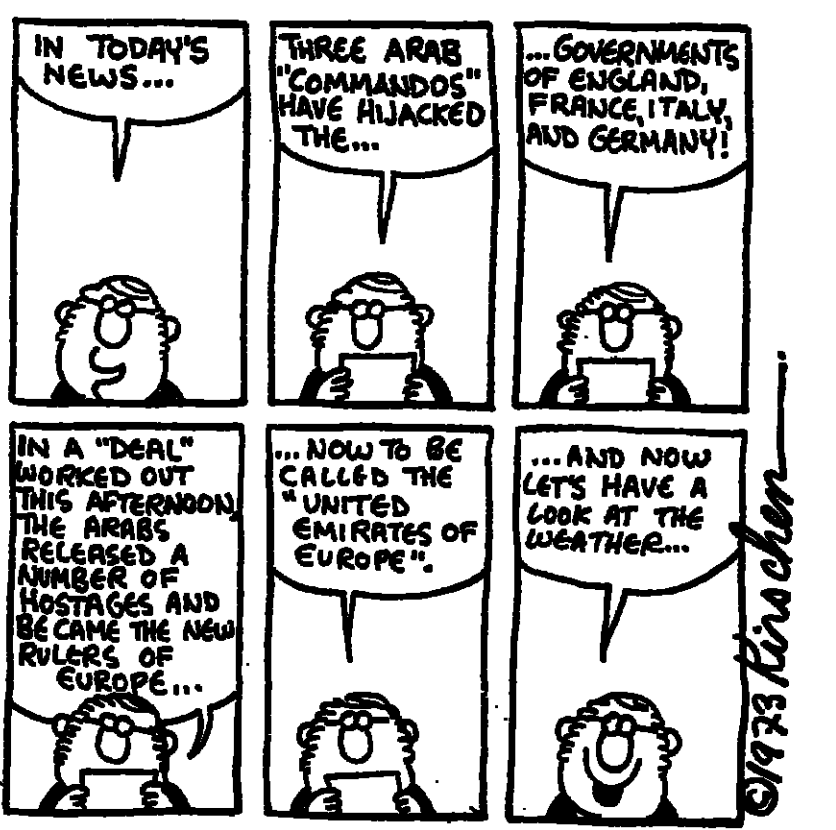
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Dry Bones



ISRAEL PRESS

Damascus move calculated

Ha'aretz (non-party) writes that it would be mistaken to attribute Syria's refusal to attend the Geneva conference mainly to unwillingness to meet Israel's conditions regarding the PoWs. "The Ba'ath Government has decided not to get involved in any manner in any diplomatic move that could be interpreted as de facto recognition of the State of Israel. A decision that could be taken as re-affirmation of the three 'noes' of Khartoum." In this context of Syrian intransigence, Egypt's decision to attend nevertheless shows political wisdom and flexibility. If Cairo does not change its mind, it will win greater approval from the American leadership.

Davar (Histadrut) interprets the Syrian decision as "reflecting Syria's decision to continue the war and its sponsoring of terror, in order to preserve its extremist image." The paper notes that Syria has not condemned the outrages at Rome and Athens airports. "This is in line with the murder of Israeli prisoners and the refusal to hand over the list of PoWs." The paper notes that Syria is the main recipient of military aid from the U.S.S.R., one of the patrons of the peace conference. It continues, "There is no reason to doubt the Syrian statement that its decision was reached in coordination with Cairo... Damascus is leaving it to its ally to exert political pressures that will only serve as a strategic spring-board for the next war, also to be coordinated between them."

Hamodia (Agudat Israel) writes "in view of the close cooperation between Syria and Egypt over the Yom Kippur War and over the cease-fire, it hardly seems likely that Egypt will go ahead and attend the conference on its own. But if it does so, its freedom to manoeuvre will be severely limited as it will risk criticism of betraying the Arab cause, particularly over the issue of Palestinian representation."

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